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DONOVAN'S AID TO INTERRACIAL CAUSE

Royalties of \$25,000 from a real-life spy thriller by James B. Donovan, outgoing president of the Board of Education, have been donated to a new organization dedicated to betterment of interracial relations.

The gift, announced yesterday, will go to the new John LaFarge Institute, a center for promoting intergroup harmony that will be opened at the new headquarters of America magazine, 106 W. 56th St. The national Roman Catholic journal is published by Jesuit priests.

Mr. Donovan has been in

the midst of school integration controversy since he became president of the school board in December, 1963. He will retire from the post Wednesday, less than two months after his second re-election.

The Rev. Thurston N. Davis, president of the institute and editor in chief of America, said that Mr. Donovan's family had stipulated that the gift would come from royalties of "Strangers on a Bridge," published by Atheneum last year.

The book, which has been a best-seller in both hard-cover and paperback editions, is an account of Mr. Donovan's negotiations on behalf of the

U. S. Government to exchange captured U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, convicted chief of Soviet espionage in this country.

As court-appointed counsel for Col. Abel, in 1957, Mr. Donovan pleaded against his client's execution on the ground that the Soviet spy might later be exchanged for a U. S. citizen convicted of espionage in the Soviet Union. Movie rights to Mr. Donovan's book were sold to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The LaFarge Institute is named for a former editor of America who was a pioneer in interracial work in the U. S. It

was founded by the magazine's editor after Fasher LaFarge died in 1963. Its goal is to continue his work through a series of conference programs to be held at America's headquarters.

An inter-religious activity the institute has advisers from all major religious groups. These include the Rev. Dr. John C. Bennett, president of the Union Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.